Appendix 1. Latin texts and their translation

1.1.- Account on *Euphorbia* L. (Euphorbiaceae) as written by Pliny (*Naturalis Historia* XXV, 77–79). These writings are considered as the earliest to be associated to this Linnean generic name, although Pliny used the variant "*Euphorbea*." Pliny's description, including its English translation, reads as it is indicated below. As a basis for this component of our research, we have used the well-known Latin version of the *Naturalis Historia* published by Mayhoff (1907: pp. 141–142):

> *Invenit et patrum nostrorum aetate rex Iuba quam appellavit Euphorbeam medici sui nomine. Frater is fuit Musae, a quo divum Augustum conservatum indicavimus. iidem fratres instituere a balineis frigida multa corpora adstringere; antea non erat mos nisi calida tantum lavari, sicut apud Homerum etiam invenimus. sed Iubae volumen quoque extat de ea herba et clarum praeconium. Invenit eam in monte Atlante, specie thyrsi, foliis acanthinis. Vis tanta est ut e longinquo sucus excipiatur incisa conto; subitur excipulis ventriculo haedino. Vmor lactis videtur defluens; siccatus cum coiit, turis effigiem habet. Qui colligunt, clarius vident. Contra serpentes medetur quacumque parte percussa vertice inciso et medicamento addito*

ibi. Gaetuli, qui legunt, taedio lacte adulterant, sed discernitur igni; id enim, quod sincerum non est, fastidiendum odorem habet. [translated by Jones (1966: p. 192) and revised by Carl Lenhart (Harvard University, pers. comm.) as: In the age too of our fathers King Juba discovered a plant to which he gave the name euphorbea, calling it after his own physician Euphorbus. This man was the brother of the Musa[1] we have mentioned as the savior of the life of the late Emperor Augustus[2]. It was these brothers who first adopted the plan of bracing the body by copious douches of cold water after the bath. Before this, the custom was to bathe in hot water only, as we find that it is also in Homer[3]. But the treatise also of Juba on this plant[4] is still extant, and it makes a splendid testimonial. He discovered it on Mount Atlas; it has the appearance of a thyrsus[5] and the leaves are spines[6]. Its potency is so great that the juice, obtained by incision with a pole, is gathered from a distance; it is caught in receivers made of kids' [young goat] stomachs placed underneath. Fluid

[1] Antonius Musa (63–14 BC) was a famous herbalist and physician of Caesar Augustus (63 BC–14 AD). He was a slave who gained freedom after he healed Augustus of arthrosis in the year 23. The Linnean genus *Musa* (Musaceae) is dedicated to him. The herbal work *De Herba Vettonica* has been erroneously assigned to this Greek physician.

[2] Caesar Augustus (63 BC–14 AD) was the first emperor of Rome. He was Julius Caesar's nephew who named him as his heir.

[3] The Homeric Baths refer to the tradition of using hot water baths as a healthy ritual. They were mentioned in Homer's Odyssey (VIII, 434-456; X, 358-363) to describe Ulises taking them when he reached the country of the Phaeacians and when he was hosted by Circe.

[4] The Latin word "*herba*" can refer to an herbaceous or to a medicinal plant, but in this context, we agree with Jones (1966: p. 192), who translated this word merely as "plant". It is noteworthy that *herba* (= plant) as a word-stem is widely used in botany, as for example the English term "herbarium" to refer to a collection of plant specimens.

[5] Thyrse is a botanical term that refers to a type of inflorescence; however, in mythology the word *thyrsus* defines the walking cane of the Greek god Dionysus, whom the Romans call Bacchus; the upper end of this cane is decorated with a big pine-cone. The stems of *Euphorbia resinifera* grow vertically in clumps, the apexes of these stems exhibit large conglomerate of flowers/fruits during the reproductive season. This growth-habit gives these plant stems the appearance of Dionysus' walking canes.

[6] The Latin word *acanthinus* refers to acanthus (i.e., plant genus *Acanthus*, Acanthaceae) whose large lobed leaves were usually represented in the Corinthian capitals of the columns of Greek and Roman buildings. However, the Greek word *ácantha* (ἄκανθα) translates as spine, and in this context has been used as a prefix in the specific epithet of some thorny plants (e.g., *Convolulus acanthocladus* Boiss. & Kotschy, Convolvulaceae; *Euphorbia acanthothamnos* Boiss.). Therefore, we interpret the Plinian term "*acanthinis*" to describe the numerous spines found along the stem ribs of *E. resinifera*.

> and like milk as it drops down, when it has dried and congealed it has all the features of frankincense. The collectors find their vision improved. It is employed as treatment for snake-bite. In whatever part of the body the bite may be, an incision is made in the top of the skull [stem] and the medicament inserted there. The Gaetulians[7] [Gaetulia was a region of north Africa including parts of the Atlas Mountains and modern Mauretania, bordering the Sahara Desert. The Gaetulians formed a loose political unit, but were defeated by the Romans in Augustus's reign] who gather the juice adulterate it out of weary disgust by adding milk, but fire is a test of genuineness, for that which is adulterated emits a nauseating smell.].

1.2.- Excerpt of the protologue of *Euphorbia regis-jubae* Webb & Berthelot in which the specific epithet is explained (Webb & Berthelot, 1846–1847: pp. 250-251):

> *Nomen in honorem principis egregii fecimus. Euphorbia enim ab Euphorbo dicta archiatro regis Jubae qui Romae in domo Caesarum Julii atque Octavii eductus Mauritaniam citeriorem seu Tingitanam ab Augusto pro regno avito acceperat: post mortem inter deos indigetes a Mauris relatus fuit. Plura graece scripsit. Exploratores in insulas Fortunatas poetarum tum temporis figmentis et fabulositate obvolutas misit. Numerum, nomina, situs patefecit. Inter alia ibi visa arbores fuisse ferulae similes ex quibus aqua exprimatur, ex nigris, amara, ex candidis potui*

[7] It refers to the inhabitants of Gaetulia, a Northen Africa region that included parts of the Atlas Mountains and Mauretania, bordering the Sahara Desert. The Gaetulians formed a loose political unit, but they had conflicts and wars with Rome, until they were defeated by the army of Augustus early in the first century of the current era.

jucunda ut a C. Plinio docemur (lib. 1, cap. 37) referebant. Has ferulas Euphorbias potius, nostram nigram amaram; potui jucundam, quae et nunc Mauro vocabulo Tabayba dulce appellatur, Euphorbiam fuisse balsamiferam, vix dubitandum. Nostra regi cujus innotuerint auspiciis insulae nostrae et Euphorbi patrono jure dicanda [translated by Arcos Pereira and García de Paso as: We named it [*Euphorbia regis-jubae*] in honor of an illustrious prince. It [the genus] is called *Euphorbia* after Euphorbus, physician to King Juba, who was educated in Rome in the house of the Caesars Julius and Octavian[8], had received from Augustus the Mauretania citerior or Tingitana because this was the kingdom of his ancestors; after his death the Mauros[9] made him one of their protector gods. He wrote many works in Greek. He sent explorers to the Fortunate Isles, surrounded at that time by fables and fantasy of the poets. He revealed their number, their names and their position. Among other things seen, they indicated that there were shrubs resembling ferulas, from which water was extracted, bitter from those that were black, pleasant to drink from those that were white, as Pliny teaches us (lib. I, cap. 37)[10]; it can hardly be doubted that of these ferulas, identified by us as Euphorbias, ours [*Euphorbia regis-jubae*] is the bitter black, whereas the pleasant to drink was the *Euphorbia balsamifera*, which is now called by a mauro name, sweet Tabayba. Ours [*Euphorbia regis-jubae*] is justly to be dedicated to the king and protector of Euphorbus, by whose auspices our [Canary] islands were known.

---

[8] Name that was also given to Caesar Augustus.
[9] It refers to the inhabitants of Mauretania. The current English (Morish) and Spanish (moros) words to refer to these ethnic groups derive from the Latin word *Maurus*.
[10] This is a typographic error, it should read “lib. 6.”

1.3.- Excerpt of the protologue of *Vieraea* Webb (Asteraceae) published by Webb (1844: pp. 226) to honor the legacy of Viera y Clavijo, in which its etymology is explained.

Webb's accounts refers to works that Viera y Clavijo wrote on poetry [some of his poems were published posthumously, such as those in Viera y Clavijo (1873)], natural history (Viera y Clavijo, 1868, 1869), and human history (Viera y Clavijo, 1772, 1773, 1776, 1783) pertinent to the Canary Islands.

> *Nomen feci in honorem egregii viri Josephi Vierae, canonici Canariensis, qui insularum quondam Fortunatarum historiam amplissimam, in 4 tomos divisam, et poemata non inficeta evulgavit. Plurima quoque de patriae historia naturali manuscrita reliquit, et catalogum plantarum Canariensium ex quo nomina pleraque vulgaria excerpsimus"* [translated by us as: I named it in honor of the distinguished man José Viera [y Clavijo], canon of the Canary Island cathedral, who published a very extensive work on the history of the once called Fortunate Islands, divided into four volumes, and poems not lacking in grace. He also left many writings on the natural history of his homeland and a catalog of plants of the Canary Islands, from which we took many common names.].

1.4.- Excerpt of the protologue of *Jubaea* Kunth (Areacaceae) in which the etymology of the genus name is explained (Kunth, 1816: p. 308):

Apellavimus in honorem Jubae, regis Numidiae, eruditissimi principis et studiorum claritate quam regno memorabilioris, qui de re herbaria ac geographia commentarios reliquit insignes [Arcos Pereira and García de Paso as: We named it in honor of Juba, king of Numidia, a most erudite prince, and more memorable for the brilliance of his studies than [for] the kingdom, who wrote notable commentaries on plants and geography].

REFERENCES

Jones, W.H.S. (1966) *Pliny. Natural history. Volume VII, Libri XXIV-XXV*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press.

Kunth, C.S. (1816) *Nova genera et species plantarum*. Quarto page version. Volume 1, part 4. Paris: Sumptibus.

Mayhoff, C. (1907) *C. Plini Secundi naturalis historiae libri XXXVII. Volume IV. Libri XXIII–XXX*. Leipzig: Tevbeneri.

Viera y Clavijo, J. (1772) *Noticias de la historia general de las Islas de Canaria*. Tome 1. Madrid: Blas Román.

Viera y Clavijo, J. (1773) *Noticias de la historia general de las Islas de Canaria*. Tome 2. Madrid: Blas Román.

Viera y Clavijo, J. (1776) *Noticias de la historia general de las Islas de Canaria*. Tome 3. Madrid: Blas Román.

Viera y Clavijo, J. (1783) *Noticias de la historia general de las Islas de Canaria*. Tome 4. Madrid: Blas Román.

Viera y Clavijo, J. (1868) *Diccionario de historia natural de las Islas Canarias*. Tome 1. Las Palmas de Gran Canaria: Real Sociedad Económica de Amigos del País.

Viera y Clavijo, J. (1869) *Diccionario de historia natural de las Islas Canarias*. Tome 2. Las Palmas de Gran Canaria: Real Sociedad Económica de Amigos del País.

Viera y Clavijo, J. (1873) *Las bodas de las plantas*. Barcelona: Federico Martí y Cantó.

Webb, P.B. (1844) *Vieraea*. In: P.B. Webb & S. Berthelot (eds.), *Phytographia canariensis*. Livraison 73. *Histoire naturelle des Îles Canaries*. Tome 3, part 2, section 2: 225–227. Paris: Béthune.

Webb, P.B. & Berthelot, S. (1846–1847) *Euphorbia*. In: P.B. Webb & S. Berthelot (eds.), *Phytographia canariensis*. Livraisons 87, 89. *Histoire naturelle des Îles Canaries*. Tome 3, part 2, section 3: 236–256. Paris: Bureàux.